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# GORBACHEV OFFER PUTS PRESSURE ON REAGAN

WASHINGTON — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's latest arms-control plan has been carefully crafted to put pressure on President Reagan to scrap his Star Wars defense project, while leaving a similar Soviet program virtually untouched, The Post has learned.

Senior administration arms-control experts and intelligence officials said the proposal, contained in a letter from Gorbachev to Reagan, would leave the Soviet Union with a huge advantage in deadly new mobile missiles.

At the same time it would require that the U.S. cancel plans to deploy its own mobile missiles and the super-secret Stealth bomber.

The Soviet offer, which calls for a 50 percent elimination of nuclear warheads as well as the cancellation of Star Wars, is expected to be unveiled formally by Soviet officials at the Geneva arms control talks this week.

It is clearly designed to put immediate pressure on Reagan to scrap Star Wars in return for the huge 50 percent cut in U.S. and Soviet offensive missiles.

But senior administration officials said last night that the wording of the Soviet proposal appears designed to give Moscow exclusive rights to a Star Wars defense research program of its own making.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's frequent calls last week for a ban on "space strike weapons," only covers weapons based in space like Reagan's Star Wars defense.

By NILES LATHEM  
Bureau Chief

But U.S. officials say the Soviets are working on a sophisticated chemical laser particle beam program designed to strike at incoming U.S. missiles in space.

Since this would be based on land and not in space it would not be covered by the proposed treaty.

Last week, under questioning by a Post reporter, Soviet Foreign

Ministry spokesman Vladimir Lomikho admitted that Moscow is working on a futuristic missile defense system.

"I can only say that the Soviet Union is engaged only in peaceful space research which is aimed at monitoring and also at having the assurance of our national security," he said.

On other aspects of the latest Soviet proposal, U.S. officials say that Shevardnadze proposed a ban on "new types" of offensive weapons.

This would force Reagan to scrap the new "Midget-man" mobile missile and the highly secret Stealth bomber that would carry nuclear weapons but be invisible to radar.

At the same time, the Soviet proposal would not take into account its own new mobile SS-24 and SS-25 missiles and the submarine launched SS-23 missile, which are either already deployed or are in the testing phase, sources said.

But Reagan made clear that he is sticking by his decision to push ahead with Star Wars and added he is ready for "tough negotiating."



SHEVARDNADZE  
"Ban Star Wars."